

SEWER POLICY AND MANAGEMENT
WORKSHOP - 2/4/87

County Health Department

ISDS (Individual Sewage Disposal Systems)

0 Health Department (State Law & County Code: CRS)

- Tests for installation of new systems
- Requires permits for new and rebuilt systems
- Answers complaints and issues violation notices for faulty systems
- Requires connection to sewer if within 400' of an existing sewer

all

0 Health Board (State Law CRS)

- Hears appeals to Health Department rulings on septic permits
- Hears appeals to sewer connection requirement
- Sets policy for sewer and septic usage
- Makes findings and declarations about health problems
- Advisory to Board of County Commissioners

0 Land Use and Planning Policies

(State Law and County Land Development Code: CRS MCLDC)

- County policy requires new development of urban density to connect to sewer and has been enforced fairly consistently over the past 10 years (urban density = 1 dwelling/1 acre or higher)
- County policy recognizes and supports public investment in sewer systems and the need to support that investment through continuing connections of urban density in existing non-sewered subdivisions.
- County, State and Federal clean water documents encourage the planning for urban growth within defined sewer service areas ("201 Areas")
All development in these areas is assumed to ultimately need sewer service

= In Mesa County the ^wdefined sewer service areas are as follows:

- (1) Persigo 201 - Grand Junction, Clifton, Orchard Mesa, Redlands, Northwest, Fruitvale, Pear Park -

- (2) Fruita 201 - Fruita, Kingsview,
Redlands to 20 Road on
the East
- (3) Palisade - Palisade Area
- (4) Clifton 1 & 2 - Central Clifton
- (5) Mack - Mack (Unincorporated)
- (6) Mesa
- (7) Collbran
- (8) Powderhorn Metro 1 & 2
- (9) Valley Vista - Orchard Mesa
- (10) DeBeque

Special Cases

Type #1

Situation: Health Department receives complaint that raw sewage is flowing into a wash, sewer line is within 400' of the property. Property owner is informed by registered return receipt letter that they must connect to sewer. Property owner does not respond. Health Department initiates legal action. Property owners attend meetings with Health Department, County Attorney, County Planning. Alternatives are explained:

- (1) Conenct to sewer
- (2) Injunction from court to force connection
- (3) Hearing before Board of County Commissioners
to force connection and place lien on property.

The property owner states that they cannot afford to connect.

Solution:

The City Utilities Department agreed to make the connection from the property to the sewer and accepted a promissory note for payment. The property owner will install the connection to the house. The work will be inspected by the City Utilities Department and County Health Department. The sewer fund will pay the cost of the connection with repayment under terms of the note.

Building Dept. 4

Type #2

Situation:

A septic system is failing and has been reported to County Health Department. The owner has been notified and would like to participate in a neighborhood sewer line to the interceptor which is less than 400' away. The neighbors have working septic systems and say they cannot afford to connect.

Solution:

The City Utilities Department will use the sewer fund to place a sewer line in the entire neighborhood. The septic system that is failing will be connected by the property owner who will pay tap fee, plant investment fee and pro-rated share. Other houses will be brought into the sewer as their septic tanks fail and will be required to pay appropriate fees.

Capital Budget for Sewer Expansion

The proposed scenic interceptor sewer was discussed and the possibility of using the money instead for in-street sewer lines in the highest priority neighborhoods (as identified on the Redlands Plan and other plans).